

**ABSTRACT**

The invention relates to a method for the operation of a multi-cylinder internal combustion engine with intake and exhaust valves and at least one braking valve for each cylinder, said braking valves being connected to a common pressure vessel (braking rail). The invention proposes that during the start-up phase of the internal combustion engine a first group of cylinders be cut off from the fuel supply such that the cylinders of this first group operate as compressors which charge the pressure vessel via their braking valves with compressed air, and that the cylinders of a second group of cylinders which are supplied with fuel be charged with compressed air from the pressure vessel via their braking valves, such that the compression pressure and compression temperature in the cylinders of the second group will be raised during the start-up phase.

Fig. 1

